



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, June 6, 2005

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time

Releases

Building permits, April 2005

2

The rebound in the value of residential permits in April was more than offset by the first decline in three months in the non-residential sector. As a result, the overall value of building permits issued by municipalities fell 2.6% to \$5.0 billion.

New products

6

Rich Site Summary feeds

Statistics Canada now offers *Rich Site Summary/Really Simple Syndication* (RSS) feeds for all information released in *The Daily*.

Using your preferred news reader software, you can now get information on the subjects of your choice delivered free, right to your desktop immediately upon release.

RSS is a text format that allows users with appropriate software to stay up to date by having new information posted on a website delivered to them automatically.

If you need the news reader software, you can find links to free downloads and more information about RSS from the Government of Canada Newsroom (www.news.gc.ca). Under *Choose Your News* click on *News aggregators/News readers*.

For more information, contact Jacques Lefebvre (613-951-7220), Communications and Library Services Division.



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada

Releases

Building permits

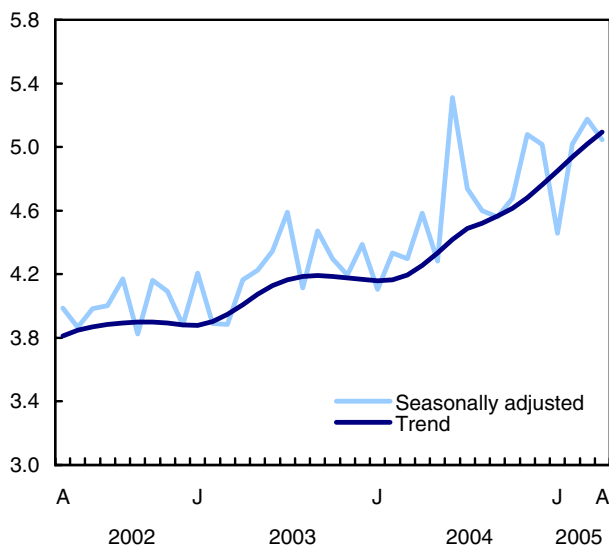
April 2005

The rebound in the value of residential permits in April was more than offset by the first decline in three months in the non-residential sector. As a result, the overall value of building permits issued by municipalities fell 2.6% to \$5.0 billion.

Even so, construction intentions remain strong. Municipalities issued an exceptional \$5.2 billion in March and the value of permits surpassed the \$5-billion mark in five of the previous six months. Construction intentions in April were 8.9% higher than the average monthly level in 2004, a record year.

Total value of permits decline in April

\$ billions



In the housing sector, builders took out \$3.2 billion in permits, up 7.8% from March, fuelled by advances for both single- and multi-family dwellings. This followed a 12.0% decline in March.

In the non-residential sector, the value of permits tumbled 16.0% to \$1.9 billion. This drop, which followed the record high \$2.2 billion posted in March, was due to declines in the commercial and institutional components. April's total was still 20.8% higher than the average monthly level in 2004.

Note to readers

Unless otherwise stated, this release presents seasonally adjusted data, which ease comparisons by removing the effects of seasonal variations.

The Building Permits Survey covers 2,380 municipalities representing 95% of the population. It provides an early indication of building activity. The communities representing the other 5% of the population are very small, and their levels of building activity have little impact on the total.

The value of planned construction activities shown in this release excludes engineering projects (e.g., waterworks, sewers or culverts) and land.

Municipalities issued \$19.7 billion in permits between January and April, up 13.7% from the same period last year.

The largest contributor to this advance was the non-residential sector with an impressive 29.7% gain to \$7.3 billion. From January to April, residential permits have increased 6.1% to \$12.4 billion.

The metropolitan areas of Calgary and Edmonton have been the hottest markets in terms of planned construction since the beginning of 2005, with strong results in both residential and non-residential sectors.

Vancouver and Toronto have also shown large gains in the cumulative value, but solely on the strength of the non-residential sector.

Housing: Growth in both single- and multi-family areas

The value of multi-family permits surged 18.6% in April to \$1.1 billion, while single-family permits increased 3.0% to \$2.1 billion.

Overall, municipal authorities approved 19,205 new dwelling units in April, 1,500 more than in March.

Low mortgage rates, good employment, rising disposable income as well as strong consumer confidence continued to stimulate the demand for new housing.

Furthermore, strong demand for new housing since the beginning of the year had spill-over effects on other sectors of the economy. Retail sales in the furniture sector in the first quarter of 2005 were 3.4% above those in the last quarter of 2004.

Sales in building and outdoor home supplies stores in the first quarter of 2005 stood 9.3% above those in the same quarter of 2004, and there has been robust employment growth in the construction sector.

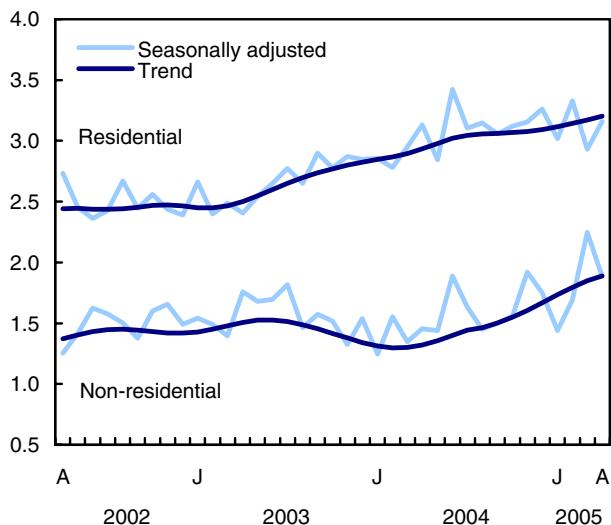
Provincially, gains were recorded in April for every province and territory. In terms of dollars, the largest increases occurred in Quebec and British Columbia. In Alberta, the value of housing permits hit a record \$524 million, surpassing the previous high of \$497 million set in November 2004.

Between January and April, the value of single-family dwellings totalled \$8.2 billion, up 4.0% from the same period last year. The value of multi-family dwellings increased 10.4% to \$4.2 billion.

The strong showing in the cumulative value of residential permits can be explained by a strong demand for new housing in the two westernmost provinces. From January to April, the value of permits increased by 24.4% in Alberta and 14.9% in British Columbia. Gains were far less spectacular elsewhere in the country.

Value of non-residential permits declines from March's peak

\$ billions



Commercial, institutional permits decline

Builders took out fewer commercial and institutional permits in April, while the value of industrial permits increased for the third month in a row.

After an impressive 81.0% jump in March, intentions in the institutional sector incurred the largest decline, tumbling 34.0% to \$480 million.

Despite this decline the value of institutional permits was still strong. Gains in the educational building category failed to offset declines in hospital and government administrative permits. Alberta took the

brunt of the decline, as a permit for a large government administrative building project had been issued in March.

The value of permits in the commercial sector fell 11.3% to \$1.0 billion. Lower demand for permits associated with warehouse buildings in Ontario precipitated this decline. Even so, the value of commercial building permits was 22.4% higher than last year's monthly average.

Permits for the industrial sector showed continuing strength, increasing 5.1% to \$372 million. Demand for industrial permits in Alberta was a particularly strong 86.1% to \$141 million, as construction intentions for utility buildings increased.

The non-residential sector continues to be hit by mixed economic indicators, though positive undertones have dominated lately. Canadian corporations continued to report record earnings in the first quarter of 2005. These profits rose in 11 of the previous 13 quarters following a downturn in 2001.

On the commercial side, retailers experienced their strongest quarterly sales increase in the first quarter in just over three years, thanks to robust spending by shoppers in January and February.

On the industrial side, there have been concerns about rising finished product inventories and lower order levels. But manufacturers anticipated maintaining their same level of production this summer, according to the Business Conditions Survey.

Regionally, 13 out of the 28 metropolitan areas recorded monthly declines in the value of non-residential permits in April, the two largest occurring in Toronto and Calgary.

Provincially, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario recorded the strongest declines. All three components recorded decreases in those provinces, except for Alberta's industrial construction intentions.

In contrast, Quebec recorded the largest advance in the non-residential sector, the result of increases in all three components.

Municipalities issued just over \$7.3 billion worth of non-residential permits between January and April, up 29.7% from the same period in 2004 as all three components increased.

The strongest gains occurred in the commercial sector, as the year-to-date level was up 37.7% to \$4.2 billion, and in the institutional sector, where intentions increased 19.9% to \$1.9 billion. In the industrial sector, the value of permits rose 19.8% to \$1.1 billion.

Non-residential permits have increased in seven provinces so far this year. The largest growth was in Alberta, where the value of permits nearly doubled.

Available on CANSIM: tables 026-0001 to 026-0008, 026-0010 and 026-0015.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2802.

The April 2005 issue of *Building Permits* (64-001-XIE, \$15/\$156) will be available soon.

The May 2005 building permit estimate will be released on July 7.

To order data, contact Patrick Lemire (613-951-6321 or 1-800-579-8533; bdp_information@statcan.ca). For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Étienne Saint-Pierre (613-951-2025), Investment and Capital Stock Division.

Value of building permits, by census metropolitan area¹

	March 2005 ^r	April 2005 ^p	March to April 2005	January to April 2004	January to April 2005	January–April 2004 to January–April 2005
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions		% change	\$ millions		% change
St. John's	58.3	30.2	-48.2	112.3	134.8	20.0
Halifax	45.9	69.1	50.6	189.3	172.6	-8.8
Saint John	10.1	14.4	42.7	33.3	44.7	34.3
Saguenay	17.4	25.6	47.6	37.2	53.3	43.0
Québec	115.3	92.1	-20.1	413.2	371.8	-10.0
Sherbrooke	18.5	26.4	42.6	75.4	77.9	3.3
Trois-Rivières	8.3	14.2	69.8	46.6	47.6	2.2
Montréal	412.8	455.5	10.4	2,054.3	1,887.6	-8.1
Ottawa–Gatineau, Ontario/Quebec	170.5	194.0	13.8	695.3	734.6	5.7
Ottawa–Gatineau (Que. part)	36.6	30.3	-17.0	148.3	117.1	-21.0
Ottawa–Gatineau (Ont. part)	134.0	163.7	22.2	547.0	617.5	12.9
Kingston	8.5	27.8	229.3	52.5	57.2	8.9
Oshawa	78.9	85.6	8.5	302.7	305.0	0.8
Toronto	1,096.1	818.3	-25.3	3,660.3	3,885.3	6.1
Hamilton	47.4	109.5	131.2	288.6	328.4	13.8
St. Catharines–Niagara	43.7	78.4	79.6	179.0	193.2	7.9
Kitchener	92.0	88.1	-4.3	294.0	306.2	4.1
London	61.2	78.7	28.6	297.4	279.5	-6.0
Windsor	36.4	51.2	40.7	174.1	157.5	-9.5
Greater Sudbury/Grand Sudbury	5.9	17.4	196.2	12.1	49.4	309.1
Thunder Bay	4.7	7.6	60.8	28.5	49.8	75.0
Winnipeg	58.7	49.4	-15.8	210.0	196.0	-6.7
Regina	27.3	11.9	-56.5	77.3	87.8	13.6
Saskatoon	38.3	19.5	-49.0	71.6	96.3	34.5
Calgary	518.6	327.7	-36.8	992.5	1,346.4	35.7
Edmonton	204.9	232.9	13.7	619.0	867.5	40.1
Abbotsford	68.1	30.2	-55.6	53.4	130.8	144.8
Vancouver	519.3	496.9	-4.3	1,453.1	1,681.9	15.7
Victoria	60.2	59.0	-2.0	158.6	220.5	39.0

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

1. Go online to view the census subdivisions that comprise the census metropolitan areas.

Note: Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

Value of building permits, by province and territory

	March 2005 ^r	April 2005 ^p	March to April 2005	January to April 2004	January to April 2005	January–April 2004 to January–April 2005
Seasonally adjusted						
	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change	\$ millions	\$ millions	% change
Canada	5,176.7	5,044.6	-2.6	17,319.6	19,698.9	13.7
Residential	2,930.0	3,158.1	7.8	11,717.9	12,436.2	6.1
Non-residential	2,246.7	1,886.4	-16.0	5,601.7	7,262.7	29.7
Newfoundland and Labrador	67.8	40.9	-39.7	143.6	180.6	25.8
Residential	24.4	30.6	25.7	111.3	111.5	0.1
Non-residential	43.4	10.3	-76.4	32.2	69.1	114.5
Prince Edward Island	11.6	15.7	36.0	58.6	64.9	10.7
Residential	8.4	11.4	36.1	40.5	43.4	7.3
Non-residential	3.2	4.3	35.7	18.1	21.5	18.4
Nova Scotia	96.3	115.2	19.7	327.3	336.2	2.7
Residential	67.5	79.4	17.7	228.8	240.5	5.1
Non-residential	28.7	35.7	24.3	98.5	95.7	-2.9
New Brunswick	57.9	63.0	8.8	213.1	219.4	2.9
Residential	38.4	41.8	8.9	162.9	153.9	-5.5
Non-residential	19.6	21.2	8.5	50.2	65.4	30.2
Quebec	828.4	928.8	12.1	3,825.0	3,622.5	-5.3
Residential	560.6	628.8	12.2	2,495.4	2,522.8	1.1
Non-residential	267.9	299.9	12.0	1,329.7	1,099.8	-17.3
Ontario	2,040.8	1,953.0	-4.3	7,434.4	8,050.5	8.3
Residential	1,133.3	1,155.2	1.9	4,903.3	4,950.2	1.0
Non-residential	907.5	797.8	-12.1	2,531.2	3,100.3	22.5
Manitoba	90.7	84.6	-6.7	328.4	327.8	-0.2
Residential	51.4	58.5	13.8	205.0	207.0	1.0
Non-residential	39.3	26.2	-33.5	123.4	120.7	-2.2
Saskatchewan	87.2	57.8	-33.7	228.7	263.2	15.1
Residential	26.7	30.1	12.4	129.5	117.5	-9.3
Non-residential	60.4	27.7	-54.1	99.2	145.7	46.9
Alberta	983.7	904.9	-8.0	2,280.1	3,378.3	48.2
Residential	490.7	523.6	6.7	1,552.6	1,931.5	24.4
Non-residential	493.1	381.3	-22.7	727.5	1,446.8	98.9
British Columbia	906.4	865.0	-4.6	2,428.6	3,223.8	32.7
Residential	523.9	591.8	13.0	1,861.8	2,138.7	14.9
Non-residential	382.5	273.2	-28.6	566.8	1,085.2	91.5
Yukon	2.5	4.2	68.4	13.6	13.4	-2.0
Residential	1.8	2.5	37.5	11.7	10.3	-12.4
Non-residential	0.7	1.7	154.1	1.9	3.1	61.8
Northwest Territories	3.4	11.5	236.4	23.0	17.9	-22.3
Residential	3.0	4.3	44.8	9.3	8.9	-4.5
Non-residential	0.4	7.1	1,619.3	13.7	9.0	-34.4
Nunavut	0.0	0.0	...	15.1	0.4	-97.3
Residential	0.0	0.0	...	5.7	0.0	-99.9
Non-residential	0.0	0.0	...	9.3	0.4	-95.7

^r Revised data.

^p Preliminary data.

... Figures not applicable.

Note: Data may not add to totals as a result of rounding.

New products

Whole Farm Database Reference Manual, 2003
Catalogue number 21F0005GPE
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

Catalogue numbers with an -XWE, -XIB or an -XIE extension are Internet versions; those with -XMB or -XME are microfiche; -XPB or -XPE are paper versions; -XDB or -XDE are electronic versions on diskette and -XCB or -XCE are electronic versions on compact disc.

How to order products

To order by phone, please refer to:

- The title
- The catalogue number
- The volume number
- The issue number
- Your credit card number.


From Canada and the United States, call: **1-800-267-6677**
From other countries, call: **1-613-951-7277**
To fax your order, call: **1-877-287-4369**
For address changes or account inquiries, call: **1-800-700-1033**

To order by mail, write to: Statistics Canada, Circulation Management, Dissemination Division, Ottawa, K1A 0T6.
Include a cheque or money order payable to **Receiver General of Canada/Publications**. Canadian customers add 7% GST and applicable PST.

To order by Internet, write to: infostats@statcan.ca or download an electronic version by accessing Statistics Canada's website (www.statcan.ca). From the *Our products and services* page, under *Browse our Internet publications*, choose *For sale*.

Authorized agents and bookstores also carry Statistics Canada's catalogued publications.

Catalogue 11-001-XIE (11-001-XIE) (11-001-XIE)



Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 9, 1997
For release at 9:30 a.m.



MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1995** 2
Changes in the number of people taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1995, about 1.5 million people took the average of about 1.5 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1995** 4
Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1995, accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow nominal growth during the year.

OTHER RELEASES

- **High-wire Index, May 1997** 3
- **Short-term Expectations Survey** 3
- **Steel primary forms, week ending May 31, 1997** 12
- **Egg production, April 1997** 12

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

Statistics Canada's official release bulletin

Catalogue 11-001-XIE.

Published each working day by the Communications Division, Statistics Canada, 10-H, R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6.

To access *The Daily* on the Internet, visit our site at <http://www.statcan.ca>. To receive *The Daily* each morning by e-mail, send an e-mail message to listproc@statcan.ca. Leave the subject line blank. In the body of the message, type "subscribe daily firstname lastname".

Published by authority of the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada. © Minister of Industry, 2004. Citation in newsprint, magazine, radio, and television reporting is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source. Any other reproduction is permitted subject to the requirement that Statistics Canada is acknowledged as the source on all copies as follows: Statistics Canada, *The Daily*, catalogue 11-001-XIE, along with date and page references.